MADRAS WAR REVIEW

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DIARY OF THE WAR

24th Jan.—Advance elements of the British forces are in contact with the enemy about three miles east of Derna. A column of enemy medium tanks was engaged and dispersed, two being captured and four destroyed. In Eritrea, the Italian forces have evacuated Keru and Aicota and are continuing to retreat.

The Greeks capture a further 250 prisoners including many officers and much material in the course of their continued advance in the central sector of the Albanian front.

Rumanian revolt. General Antonescu has ordered the army into action against the rebels. All firearms, ammunition and explosives in Rumania must be surrendered to the authorities under a decree issued by Government. Six hundred rebels led by General Petrovicescu, lately Minister of Interior, have been captured. After a bloody fighting which almost certainly has cost thousands of lives, the attempts to seize complete power by the Iron Guards fizzled out when the Rumanian Army went into action.

Lord Halifax, Ambassador to the United States, was welcomed in American waters by President Roosevelt himself when he arrived to take up the most important Ambassadorship in the history of the two nations. Breaking with tradition the President of the United States left White House and journeyed to Annapolis specially to welcome the Ambassador. By his personal greeting, President Roosevelt had done a "great honour" to Britain.

It is announced that a body called the National Council with some 200 members is to be constituted for France. Its functions will be purely consultative. The members will represent all "essential elements" of French life. The meetings will be secret with the Head of the State, Marshal Petain, deciding on any details for publication.

Emperor Haile Selassie has re-entered Abyssinia. A message from Khartoum says he crossed the Sudan frontier into his own country on January 15. He flew in a Royal Air Force bomber escorted by fighter aircraft.

It is revealed that over 1,500,000 people in Britain have been transferred from their homes in areas liable to enemy air attack to other less vulnerable areas. The success with which this gigantic task has been performed caused great gratification to the Committee which has been investigating the results.

The Government Information Board, Tokyo, announces that both the Governments of Thailand and France have accepted the Japanese Government's proposal for a truce and its offer for mediation in the conflict between them.

A 7,000 ton Italian supply ship is sunk by the British submarine "*Parthian*" in the Mediterranean.

British shipping interests have bought twelve cargoships from the United States' Maritime Commission's laid up fleet. The ships have an aggregate deadweight tonnage of 107,000 tons.

Royal Air Force bomb submarine base at L'Orient and carry out heavy raids on Italian bases in Sicily.

The House of Representatives pass the Bill for the construction of a fleet of two hundred merchantmen for the United States.

London and the rest of the country enjoy raid-free night.

25th Jan.—British forces advancing into Abyssinia have penetrated further into the country, backed by the patriots. Royal Air Force bombers attack many ærodromes of the Italian overseas Air Force, including Maritza at Rhodes in the Dodecanese Islands and damage more dispersed aircraft. Operations east of Keru and Aicota are progressing satisfactorily.

A desperate Italian bid to recapture strategic heights north of the key town of Klissura on the central battle-front in Albania, is repulsed.

It is reported that Hitler has made a formal demand to Marshal Petain for the use of Tunisia as a base of operations against the British forces in North Africa. Marshal Petain's controller of the press, wireless and film industry, M. Tixier Vignancour, has resigned.

Activity of enemy aircraft over Great Britain has been on a small scale. Single enemy aircraft cross the east coast. Bombs dropped at two points in East Anglia, which damage some buildings and kill a few people. London has been free of night raid. Only slight enemy air activity is reported from other parts of the country after darkness. No bombs have been dropped.

British trawlers "Strathrannoch," "Galvani" and "Philippe" shoot down an enemy plane.

26th Jan.—It is reported that advanced patrols have entered Derna.

British forces operating in Italian Eritrea have captured the township of Brescia. This

capture places the terminus of the Eritrean railway line to the Red Sea port of Massawa under British control. The enemy is continuing to withdraw on the line from Brescia to Barentu.

Italian troops in Albania launch fierce and continuous attacks on Greek positions from the Ourgvisa mountains to the source of the Devoli river, but the Greeks hold their lines firmly.

British troops are eight miles east of Biscia whence the Italians have withdrawn. Five Italian fighter aircraft were shot down by British fighters. Raids were carried out by British bombers on the aerodrome at Barce (Libya). A landing ground at Derna, and motor transports at Barentu and near Umm Hagar have been attacked.

The Abyssinian capital of Addis Ababa is in a state bordering on siege.

The Royal Air Force gave intensive support to the British Army in its successful advance east of Keru in Italian East Africa.

Serious disturbances occur in Northern Italy, particularly Milan and Turin, German troops occupy railway stations, post offices and large factories at Milan and restore order. Communications between Brindisi area and Sicily are stated to be under German control and censorship.

It is reported that Germany is seeking Hungarian consent to German troop movements into Hungarian territory.

The uncompromising statement that friendly relations with the United States would be impossible so long as the latter considered China and not the Eastern Pacific as her first line of defence, was made by Mr. Matsuoka, the Japanese Foreign Minister, addressing the Budget Committee of the Lower House. He added that " Japan must dominate the Western Pacific, not for the sake of Japan but for the sake of humanity."

General Antonescu pays tribute to the Rumanian Army for the part it had played in crushing the rebellion. Military authorities carry out a house-to-house search. Military and Police patrols are now engaged in one of the biggest man-hunts in Rumania's history.

Sgr. Giuseppe Bruni, Vice-Governor-General of Libya, is dead.

A small number of Royal Air Force bombers bomb Hanover and several points in Western and Central Germany.

British trawler " Galvani " and drifters " Fisherboy " and " Reids " destroy two enemy planes.

27th Jan.—The four-front British offensive on the Italian African Empire continues in full blast. Reports mention Italian preparations to evacuate Abyssinia. British forces are closing in on Italian positions about Agordat and Barentu in Eritrea. The prisoners taken at Tobruk number over twenty-five thousand, together with twenty-two medium and twenty-eight light tanks.

Admiral Koshiro Oikawa, Japanese Navy Minister, answering interpellations at a meeting of the House of Representatives Budget Committee, says that the " Japanese Navy is preparing for any eventuality. Nothing desirable is being left undone towards meeting the worst."

General Antonescu forms a new military Cabinet. All portfolios except Justice, Labour and Propaganda are entrusted to Generals. No member of the Iron Guard or representative of the King Carol regime is included in the new Government.

The responsibility of Ministers and high officials to the Head of the State in Unoccupied France is fixed by an Act of Constitution, issued by Marshall Petain. The Act introduces the " Fuehrer principle " into the State structure. The general trend of the Act is to render Ministers and officials and former Ministers and officials directly responsible to the Chief of the State for all their actions and to place their persons and property under obligation connected threwith.

The Italian Secret Police and the German Gestapo have arrested between 20 to 30 people including Italian Army officers and Fascist officials at Milan and Turin.

British bombers attack the Norwegian ore port of Narvik and damage quays.

Enemy air activity over England. A German bomber which crossed the East Coast and dropped bombs was shot down. Another German bomber drop bombs on a North East Coast town, injuring a few persons. One enemy plane machine-gunned an East Coast town without doing any damage and hurting anyone.

The Italian Foreign Minister, Count Ciano, has taken command of a bomber squadron in the battle area.

Ankara Radio states that Marshal Graziani, Commander-in-Chief of the Italian forces in Africa, has been dismissed.

As a result of action in the Channel, 19 German prisoners have fallen into British hands of whom 16 are Navy men.

The Royal Air Force bombers attack military buildings at Elbasan, railway stations at Keren and Aisha and landing ground at Apollonia

Royal Air Force bomb heavily Naples and Catania aerodromes. Aircraft of the South African Air Force carry out raids in the Moyale area and many high explosive bombs dropped.

28th Jan.—Concentration of British forces in the Derna area is continuing. The destruction of the Libyan seaplane base at Bomba is announced. In Eritrea, the British forces are driving the enemy towards the sea and are closing in on Agordat. In the Eritrean sector, the bulk of the troops are Indians. On the western border of Abyssinia, the Italians are quitting very strong positions and are being pursued.

A supreme Italian effort to turn the tide of war has been made by the Italians between Ostravitzo and Bochaia mountains but without success. Royal Air Force successfully raid Elbasan. The Greeks have smashed two big Italian attacks in the central sector of the Front. The Italian offensive is intensified on the northern front from the Devoli river to the shores of Lake Ochrida. The railhead at Florina is severely bombed.

It is reported that Mussolini intends to take charge of Italian Foreign policy in his own hands. It is also revealed that some other Italian Ministers follow Count Ciano to the front.

Enemy aircraft drop bombs in South-East England. Explosive bombs are reported to have been dropped in a residential area in London and one person killed. Enemy planes were in the vicinity of two towns in West and South-West England and one in South Wales for a brief period but no incidents were reported.

General Antonescu, the Rumanian Dictator, declares in a statement on his new Cabinet that Rumania will march without hesitation on the side of the "Great Fuehrer and the Duce." It is reported that M. Horia Sima has fled from Rumania.

There were no operations by British aircraft over Germany and German occupied territory.

Four persons were killed and nine wounded among Royal Air Force personnel when enemy bombs were dropped on Malta.

A German merchant ship of about 3,000 tons sailing the Atlantic grounded in the island of Ons near Vigo during a storm.

29th Jan.—British patrols have entered Italian Somaliland. British pressure on the enemy forces in the Derna area is increasing. Operations in the Agordat-Barentu sector in Eritrea are developing. It is learned that the Army of the Nile has now surrounded the important road junction of Mekelle, south of Derna.

Greeks take more prisoners in local operations. Two Italian aircraft were brought down by anti-aircraft fire. Italians bomb a military hospital at Salonika and one person was killed and ten wounded.

It is reported that compulsory registration of women for essential industries throughout Britain is to be enforced. Youths aged eighteen and nineteen and men of thirty-seven to forty are to register for military service under a new Royal Proclamation announced after a meeting of the Privy Council.

Disbandment of one of the two Communist armies is announced by Marshal Chiang Kai-shek, Generalissimo of the Chinese Forces. He declares that he had taken this drastic step as a disciplinary measure.

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The Fascist police have had to fire on demonstrators in Trieste. A number of casualties are said to have been caused at Trieste among demonstrators who shouted slogans, demanding peace, condemning Fascist regime and denouncing Germany.

A few enemy aircraft operate over the West Coast of Britain. One enemy aircraft entered the Thames Estuary and flew westwards. No bombs are reported.

General Joannis Metaxas, Greece's great military leader and Prime Minister is dead. It is announced that the new Prime Minister will be M. Alexander Korizis, Governor of the Bank of Greece.

It is announced by Mr. De Valera that the Eire Government has decided to ration tea.

There was small-scale German activity over Britain for a few hours after dark. High explosive and incendiary bombs were dropped over parts of London and surrounding areas. Damage was not extensive but a few people were killed and others injured.

British bombers attack targets at Germany's naval base of Wilhelmshaven and other places in North-West Germany.

30th Jan.—It is announced that Derna has been captured. In the Agordat-Barentu sector in Eritrea the concentration of British forces is proceeding smoothly. Intensive patrolling continues east of Metemma in Abyssinia. In Italian Somaliland work is progressing in all sectors on improved forward roads in support of British advance patrols.

It is reported that General Cavallero, the Italian Commander-in-Chief, has broken off the offensive which he had launched against the Greeks.

Hitler gives a warning to the United States to stay out of the war in a speech at the Berlin Sportspalast on the eighth anniversary of his coming to power.

The loss of a Netherlands submarine in Allied war operations is announced. British trawler *Pelton* has also been sunk.

The Suez Canal was subjected to an air attack. Bombs were dropped but no damage or casualties were caused.

German aircraft, operating singly, dropped bombs in the London area and in parts of South-East England and East Anglia. Some houses and shops were damaged; number of casualties is small. One German plane was destroyed by fighters over Essex. German long-range guns from the French Coast were again in action. No casualty or damage is reported.

President Roosevelt's Lease and Lend Bill to aid the Democracies has been approved by the Foreign Affairs Committee of the House of Representatives, which is reported to have rejected an amendment placing a limit of two thousand million dollars on lease and lend proposals.

WAR IN THE AIR

The following are the details of the British raids from home bases on enemy territory in Europe, ascertained by competent authorities for the week ending 21st January 1941:—

Date.	Targets.	British losses.	Enemy losses.
January 15, Wednesday.	R.A.F. night raids on Wilhelmshaven (Baukafen naval base, shipbuilding yards, stores, dry docks, power station); docks and shipping at Emden, Bremerhaven, Rotterdam, Flushing, Brest; aerodromes and other targets in N. W. Germany and Holland.	1	..
January 16, Thursday.	R.A.F. night raids on Wilhelmshaven (naval base, fuel stores, railway station); naval base at Emden; invasion bases at Boulogne and Calais; railway junction at Ostend aerodrome in occupied France.	5	..
January 17, Friday.	R.A.F. day raid on shipping off Dutch coast. R.A.F. night raids on naval bases at Brest and Cherbourg; two aerodromes in occupied France. Main bombing operations cancelled owing to weather.	Nil.	..
January 18, Saturday.	Bombing operations cancelled owing to weather.		
	No information has been published regarding R.A.F. activities on January 19, 20 and 21.		

The following are the figures of losses of aircraft due to enemy air raids on Britain, ascertained by competent authorities for the week ending 21st January 1941 :—

Date.	British losses.	Enemy losses.
January 15	Nil.	2
January 16	Nil.	1
January 17	Nil.	1
January 18	Nil.	2
January 19	Nil.	6
January 20	..	..
January 21	..	..

TALKING POINTS

GREECE.

The death, at the age of 71, of General Joannis Metaxas, the hero of Greek valiant resistance to the unprovoked Italian invasion, has plunged Greece in grief. Though brought up in German traditions and taught in German military colleges and although he was against Greece joining the Allies in Great War, General Metaxas had no hesitation in rejecting Italy's ultimatum in October of last year and asking his countrymen to prove worthy of their ancestors and of their liberty. His clarion call was responded to in full measure by the Greeks, and their successes, in spite of unfavourable conditions of every kind, have astonished the world. Not many days ago it was reported that Germany had let it be known to Athens that she would welcome an invitation to mediate between Greece and Italy. General Metaxas had his troops in Klissura, one of the points in the defensive line covering Elbasan, Berat and Valona and he further threatened the other keypoint of Tepelini and therefore he rejected these overtures with the contempt they deserved. The persistence and endurance of the Greek troops in the face of bad weather conditions are beyond all praise. The counter-offensive recently undertaken by Italians who had been greatly reinforced has had an ignominious end. So far, Greeks have made 16,000 Italians prisoner and there are indications that General Cavellero, Italian Commander-in-Chief, has called off the offensive he launched a few days ago, to resume it after reinforcements arrive. The death of the gallant General and Prime Minister will not make any difference in the situation in Greece. "Victory first" is the battle cry of the new Prime Minister, M. Korizis and the King, in a message to the nation, affirmed his abiding faith in the triumph of the country.

RUMANIA.

The situation in Rumania is clear enough. The Iron Guard rebellion, led by M. Horia Sima, against General Antonescu, has now been put down. It was reported that numerous people were killed in these disturbances which were widespread, especially in all Jewish districts of the capital. Massacres and pillaging by the rebels took place in many districts and General Antonescu has had to employ the army in quelling the revolt. Industrial concerns have been placed under State control and restrictions have been placed on the movements of Rumanians outside the country. General Antonescu has reformed his Cabinet which has now in it no member of the Iron Guard. There has been no authoritative account of the inwardness of this rebellion which it is believed was fomented from Germany. This does not, of course, mean that Rumania is beginning to extricate herself from German clutches and General Antonescu himself stated on Tuesday last that the sole aim of his Government was to re-establish normality. He reiterated his loyalty to the Axis and said that between Rumania and the Axis Powers the widest possible community of interest would be organized. Germany has apparently considered that it is the better part of prudence not to openly side the Iron Guards because Rumania, for all practical purposes, is now a protectorate and she can well afford to seem to be on the side of law and order.

ITALY.

Marshal Graziani, the Generalissimo of the Italian Army in Libya, has been dismissed, following numerous other resignations and dismissals. Count Ciano, the Foreign Minister, and two or three other Ministers, have taken active service. The Italian reverses in Greece and Libya have brought about an intense situation in Italy. There have been demonstrations in various parts of the country. The aid being given by the Luftwaffe and rumours of the march of German troops into Italy cannot but be felt as humiliating by Italians. Reports of disturbances at Milan and Turin and other industrial cities point to the fact that the Italian morale is deteriorating and that there are forces within Italy which hate Mussolini's adventure. Mr. Vernon Bartlett inclines to the view that "when once Fascism has had to admit defeat and Mussolini's Empire has crumbled, the Italian people will swing very far away from the doctrine which has brought them so much suffering and demands such sacrifices. How far will depend in part upon the wisdom of the Allies". The following note about the Italian National Army and the National Blackshirts troops will be useful in appreciating the internal situation which has arisen in Italy :—

(i) The National Army is a universal service army, whereas the Blackshirts are volunteers.

(ii) The Blackshirts are recruited exclusively from the Fascist Party—whose membership is scarcely a quarter of the population.

For some years the Blackshirts have been gradually merged with the National Army, which is now a combination of universal service and volunteer units.

Blackshirt battalions first came into the news in 1922, when 200,000 of them effected the "March on Rome" which made Mussolini's dictatorship possible. Once the Fascist Party had assumed the reins of Government, their private army, as such, could not exist if the Fascist regime was to be constitutional. So, in December 1922, it was disbanded and, six weeks later, re-created by Royal decree under the name "Voluntary Militia for National Security."

This force "takes orders from the head of the Government." Its duties are to "assist, together with the armed forces for the public safety and the army, in the maintenance of internal order and to prepare citizens for the defence of Italian interests in the world".

All its members take the oath of allegiance to the King of Italy and its officers are recruited from among reserve officers of the army, navy and airforce. To the Blackshirts is entrusted the pre-military training of youths under 20. In pre-war years the "Voluntary Militia" comprised 500,000 soldiers enrolled under conditions somewhat similar to those of the British Territorial Army. Of these not more than 1,000 officers and men on permanent duty were paid. The cost of its maintenance in peace was about £500,000 a year.

Three legions served in quelling disorders in Libya; others fought in the Abyssinian campaign and the Spanish Civil War. In 1939 there were about 20,000 Blackshirts attached to the regular Army in Libya and about 15,000 in Italian East Africa. Reports from Albania suggest that in addition to helping to fight the enemy, these Blackshirts are responsible for stamping out subversive tendencies within the regular army. As a rule, one additional battalion of Blackshirts is attached to each regiment on active service.

RUSSIA AND GERMANY.

The agreement between Germany and Russia in regard to frontiers and the exchange of nationals in the Baltic regions definitely means a check on German ambition in this part of Europe. Diplomatic and military collaboration in the Balkans and elsewhere, it is now clear, has been ruled out. The economic collaboration, however, remains and each country is obviously anxious to improve trade relations with the other, though there is a considerable check to this because of the transport difficulties. Russia is in a position to send considerable quantities of oil to Germany, but this could only be done through the Mediterranean and the British Navy is supreme there. It cannot, however, be denied that Russia is providing assistance to Germany. By way of Vladivostock Germany has developed a fairly considerable import and export trade with the Far East. Mr. Hugh Dalton, Minister of Economic Warfare, told the House of Commons the other day that American exports to Russia of cotton, copper, wheat, petroleum and oil drilling machinery have appreciably increasd and he added that there was ample evidence that the Soviets are helping Germany with their own goods, making up the deficiency thus caused by goods imported from the United States. It is, therefore, clear that there is leakage, somewhat serious, in the British blockade. The British Ambassador, Lord Halifax, has taken up the subject with the Amercian authorities and, in view of the declared policy of America in regard to the necessity for helping Great Britain in every way, it may well be expected that American co-operation will be forthcoming in preventing Germany from getting these additional supplies. The point, however, must be remembered that Russia is afraid of Germany and is rearming herself to the utmost extent. She would welcome complete exhaustion on both sides after a protracted war, but because the democracies are at a distance and have no aggressive objects, she would perhaps welcome the triumph of Great Britain as that would decrease the immediate danger to herself from Germany. There has been a report of possible Russo-German clashes and an Anglo-Russian reproachment. It is well to disregard these rumours. Though Russia has recently encouraged Bulgaria and Yugoslavia in their resistance to German pressure and has felt the need for closer relations with Turkey, it is quite premature to come to the conclusion that, if Germany decided to strike at the Balkans, Russia would send troops to prevent that operation.

HITLER'S NEXT MOVE.

What is going to be Germany's next move? Competent observers in Europe and America describe that Europe has been in much the same state as it was in last spring during the weeks preceding Germany's invasion of Holland, Belgium and France. Does Hitler propose to strike through Bulgaria or Yugoslavia and save Northern Albania for Italy? Does he contemplate an invasion of Eire and march through Spain to seize the Atlantic ports? Germany wants Petain to surrender the French Fleet and ports in the Mediterranean and also Oran and Dakar. There is also a report that Hitler and Petain will meet very early to discuss the outstanding questions. The German controlled press in occupied France is openly stating that unless the Petain Government is reorganized and the Nazi demands met, there will be serious trouble. Two things are certain, one is that he is feverishly anxious to deliver a knock-out blow against Britain, if possible, before American aid makes it too late. It is also clear that he has so far been helping to conceal the real direction of the next military moves by creating a state of uncertainty. Germany has been responsible for the numerous rumours which are afloat with a view to mislead the British and mystify the world as regards his plans. To some extent this mystery may be considered to have been cleared by Hitler's speech on Thursday last, at the Berlin Sportspalast, which was, on the whole, a rehash of the distorted version of the events leading to the war which he has presented to a disgusted world on numerous occasions. Two points may be picked out from this frantic effort to justify his conduct. "Wherever we can strike at Britain," he said "we shall strike." "We enter the new year," he went on, "with an armed might which is prepared as never before in German history. This spring we will begin a U-boat warfare and our enemies will then feel we were not asleep." This would seem to accord with an American report published yesterday that an attack on Britain may be expected in February when the currents and tides in the Channel will be favourable and that intensive preparations are going on in Belgium and Holland.

If the invasion does happen, every village and every town in England is fully prepared to meet it. Herr Hitler declared in his speech that he had taken account of the possibility of American help. And this leads to the second point in an otherwise twice-told tale. He delivered a warning to the United States. "Whoever wants to help Great Britain," he said, "must know that every ship that comes near our torpedo tubes will be torpedoed." In his view, Germany had never had any interest on the American continent, an assertion which ill-accords with the intensive German propaganda and sabotage organizations in the United States, Mexico and several South American States. Therefore his threat that "if American States should attempt to intervene in the European conflict, our aim will change at once," cannot deceive anybody, because, as Americans have realized, Hitler's ambition is the conquest of the world. It is worthy of note that American papers have received this threat with the utmost contempt and that, even while he was indulging in his harangue, United States' papers published the report of President's assurance to Lord Halifax soon after he landed at Annapolis a few days ago about America's "firm determination to continue assistance to Britain on an ever increasing scale. At about the same time the Foreign Relations Committee reported to the House of Representatives its approval of the "Lease and Lend" bill.

THE ITALIAN COLONIAL EMPIRE.

It has now been announced that the object of the Nile Army is to take hold of Benghazi and thus render Egypt absolutely safe from the danger of invasion. Operations have been proceeding satisfactorily and the Italian divisions south of Derna are being harassed. Derna has been occupied, a week after Tobruk fell, after an operation lasting only two or three days. Only a few minor actions were necessary to drive out the Italian garrison numbering 10,000, the majority of whom have probably escaped. General Wavell's army will proceed still further west and bombard Benghazi. Forces operating in Kenya have now advanced well into Italian Somaliland. The position of the Italian colony in Ethiopia is being rendered precarious day by day, thanks to the presence of Haile Sellassie and the activities of Abyssinian patriots helped by British officers. British forces are advancing into Eritrea and are now approaching Agordat, an important town on the railway line to the Red Sea port of Massawa. The bulk of these forces are Indians who took part in the capture of Sidi Barrani. Agordat is connected both by rail and road with the capital of Eritrea, Asmara, which is about 90 miles from Agordat and with Massawa on the coast, which is about 50 miles further Asmara. Agordat is in the highlands, about 7,500 feet above sea level, and it is from this place that the new motor highway from Addis Ababa to Massawa joins the Eritrean system. Agordat has also the great repairing shops for Italian aircraft. It is stated that 50,000 Italians live in this place. Massawa is the naval base of the Italian Red Sea Fleet and the British advance into Eritrea is, therefore, of great importance because it threatens the vitals of Italian power in Abyssinia. The operations in Abyssinia coupled with the advance in Eritrea would, of course, render the Italian position precarious.

AXIS MÜNCHAUSENS

In seizing upon novel interpretations of events, in magnificient disregard of tiresome or inconvenient facts, the Nazis and the Fascists have no peers. In October, the *Living Age* published in translation an article from *Il Popolo d'Italia*, which argued that the little that was virtuous in Anglo-Saxon civilization derived from the Romans. More recently, elaborating on this novel line of reasoning, the Italian press attributed the British success in withstanding the Nazi air attacks to the remnants of valor and hardihood that that people still possess because of the corpuscles in their veins inherited from the Rome of 2,000 years ago somewhat long-lived corpuscles, it appears. In this very issue, readers with a longing for fairy-tales might look at an article from the *Schwarze Korps* in which they will discover that the current war really ended some time ago, and that current operations are no more than a sort of final mopping-up.

But it remains for the *Deutsche Diplomatische Korrespondenz*, the organ of the Wilhelmstrasse, to attain a new height in the fabulous. In the view of this official organ, the result of the American Presidential election clearly meant the emergence of the United States as an authoritarian state, now the fourth such regime in the world. For, argues this Nazi publication, Americans, last November 5, voted Mr. Roosevelt "powers scarcely less authoritarian" than those conferred on Hitler, Mussolini and Stalin. Perhaps one will next learn, by way of the National Socialist press, that the United States declared war on Britain several months ago, that we are already in occupation of 10, Downing Street and Buckingham Palace, and that Mr. Roosevelt and his cabinet are playing soft-ball in the House of Commons—*The Living Age.*

ITALY AND GERMANY

GERMAN INVASIONS OF ITALY.

There is a similarity between the German penetration of Italy and the policy followed by the Nazis in other countries which they wished finally to subjugate. Italy's defeat in Greece and in North Africa and the necessity for Mussolini to appeal to Hitler for help are being utilized by the Fuehrer for securing a strangle-hold of Italy. No one can at this stage foresee what exactly is going to happen in regard to the relations between the two countries, though it may well be guessed that Italians are not likely to welcome the Nazi rule. There is, of course, considerable apprehension in Italy as regards possible developments. The following note regarding the German invasions of Italy and the tribulations of Sicily will be of interest :—

Italy has ben subject to barbarian invasions all through her history and the barbarians par excellence were the Germans. So often have Germans invaded and ravaged Italy that the words " German " and " Barbarian" have become almost synonymous terms in the Italian mind.

The first appearance of the Germans in Italy was when the Cimbri and the Teutones ravaged Northern Italy and threatened Rome itself in 102 B.C. They were eventually destroyed by Marius, the first of a line of dictators whose quarrels destroyed the Roman Republic. In the fifth century A.D. the Roman Empire was overwhelmed by successive waves of Teutonic invaders each one more destructive than the last. First came the Visigoths led by Alaric, who took and sacked the Imperial City of Rome itself in 410 A.D. After the Visigoths came the Vandals, whose barbarity added a new term signifying destructiveness in the word " Vandalism " to the English language. Gaiseric and the Vandals sacked Rome even more completely than the Visigoths in 455 A.D. This event marks the real end of the classical period of Roman history. More barbarians followed. Theodoric the Ostrogoth conquered all Italy at the end of the fifth century, and after him came the Lombards in the sixth. The Lombards gave their name to Northern Italy, and threatened the existence of the Pope in Rome until Charlemagne came to his rescue.

In the Middle Ages Italy was considered part of the Holy Roman Empire, whose emperors were Germans and which was really a mediaeval German Empire. Each Emperor came to Italy to be crowned, stayed there long enough to prevent the development of any Italian nationalism, but not long enough to establish any stable Government. These German invasions kept Italy for centuries in an anarchy of warring feudal nobles, city states and robber chiefs.

When the Renaissance came to Europe in the fifteenth century, Italy was the leader of the new culture. But this did not suit the Germans. The Hapsburg Emperor Charles V invaded Italy, ostensibly to free Italy from the French, but having taken the French King prisoner he thus proceeded, with his German and Spanish troops, to besiege and sack Rome in 1527. This sack was one of the most terrible in all Roman history and is generally held to have extinguished the Renaissance in Italy.

In the eighteenth century the Teutonic task of oppressing Italy was transferred to the dull hands of Ausrtria and the Hapsburgs. Italy fell into political and cultural torpor. The French democrats and Napoleon gave to Italy the idea of national unity, but the Austrians in the nineteenth century tried to put back the clock once more. It was against the Austrians that Mazzini plotted, Cavour planned and Garibaldi fought. It was against the Austrians that the people of Milan rose in 1848, and it was the present King of Italy's grandfather whom the French helped to drive out the Austrians in 1859. In the last war the Austrians invaded Italy again, and were driven back with the help of French and British troops on the Piave.

It might have been thought that the Germans would have been satisfied with their own record of barbarism. But no : when seeking for a model of behaviour for his troops in China, the ex-Kaiser pitched not upon Gothi or Vandals, but upon a non-Teutonic people, more barbarous and ruthless still, Attila and his Huns. Attila was known in his day as the " Scourge of God;" his Huns were a people of Mongolian stock. The ex-Kaiser abjured his departing troops to be " ruthless as Huns."

SICILY.

Germans also have been in Sicily before, as a source of confusion rather than a ruling element. Of the mediaeval Emperors who were kings of Sicily the most famous, Frederick II, encouraged Italian and Saracenic culture. Phoenicians, Greeks, Romans, Carthaginians, Normans, Saracens had all had their great days in the big Mediterranean island, which, however, clung tenaciously to idependence and for a period was one of the freest countries in Europe.

Though united for several centuries with Naples under the well-known title of the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies, Sicily has never been an Italian possession. The revolution of 1848 against the appalling Bourbon tyranny was followed 12 years later by the brilliant successes of the liberator Garibaldi, with British support. It was with Sicily as a base that Garibaldi was able to extend his campaign to the Italian mainland, with the result that Sicily and Naples became absorbed in the Italian kingdom united for the first time under Victor Emmanuel I.

British troops have also operated from Sicily in the past.

In 1806, when Napoleon had made great preparations for invading England and had

(*Continued on Page* 12)

THE PRESENT SITUATION

HITLER MOVES SOUTH.

The appearance of Nazi airmen over the Mediterranean links up the victories of the British Imperial Forces in Africa with the northern war in which the British islands face the Continental power of Germany.

Four months ago the Fascist thrust toward Suez was timed to coincide with a Nazi invasion of Britain. The combined attempt at a knock-out blow failed. The Italians got no further than Sidi Barrani, and have now been ejected and pursued to their own colonial bases. The Germans concentrated in the Channel ports were shattered by the R.A.F.

Hitler has been forced to move south, but not with gifts for his Axis partner. Nor is the move to Italian bases the only line of attack considered in Berlin. On the right flank pressure increases on France. On the left flank the familiar story of riots, disturbances, hurried journeys and secret meetings provides the smokescreen for a Balkan drive.

It is not Hitler's custom to present a clear picture of his detailed intentions. But his ambitions and his present straits are known. The flood of American help for Britain has begun to flow. Hitler cannot stop it. Before it reaches full spate he must attempt again the blow which has failed before.

The war is no longer one of separate campaigns. Indian and Empire troops in Africa, Greek troops in Albania, are striking through their immediate opponents at the enemy of civilization, just as the R.A.F. is striking over Germany, the Royal Navy on the oceans. And in the factories of Britain and the Commonwealth, of India and of America, the workers who have most to lose by an Axis success are striking also.

GERMANY AND RUSSIA.

For three months, ever since Molotov's visit to Berlin (where he saw for himself the striking power of the R.A.F.) the Nazis have indulged in a crescendo of anticipations of a spectacular new pact with those whom Hitler formerly branded as "blood-stained criminals."

The Soviet-German agreements signed on January 10 are by no means spectacular.

With a polite exchange of gestures they confirm Germany's retreat from the Baltic States, where after eight centuries of settlement German population have been bundled out as pawns in Hitler's game.

Beyond that the agreements are in the economic field to which Moscow appears anxious to confine any document thrust before it by Berlin at the point of the gun.

It is not signatures which define the limits of Russo-German trade, but the ability of each party to spare goods from its own pressing needs and to deliver them when spared. Germany wants to exchange machinery and manufactures for Russian wheat, oil and ores. Germany is fighting the biggest war of her history and Russia is feverishly preparing to defend herself in the East and the West against her natural enemies—Germany and Japan. Exportable surplus in these circumstances may not reach expectations.

The railways of both countries are heavily overworked. Russia's transport system has always been her weak point. Germany's transport system provides targets for the R.A.F. at important interior junctions, yards and aqueducts. If Russian railways can be reorganized, Germany may get much of the grain she needs. But oil in big quantities could only leave Russia *via* the Mediterranean, and the Royal Navy looks after that route.

There is a further means of placating Berlin by economic help, and placation is at present Moscow's greatest necessity. Though not mentioned in any open agreement, the trade route from Japan through Vladivostock provides for Germany a leak in the British blockade. This leak is not necessarily permanent.

GERMANY AND ITALY.

"Everybody, however ignorant he may be, now knows that Germany wanted the war and is carrying it on to transform the world into a vast series of Prussian barracks."

These words were written by Benito Mussolini in April 1918. If he dared to speak openly he might repeat them to-day.

Bluster and blunder, short-sighted opportunism, shameless disregard for his people's real needs, have led Mussolini to his present ignoble situation. While his African Empire crumbles, the German barbarians are over the Brenner again, to drive home the history-lessons of northern invasions that every Italian has learnt at school.

When Italy was dragged into the war, her Duce complained that she was a prisoner in the Mediterranean. In six months of war he has failed to break the doors at Gibraltar and Suez which only his own action closed to him. Now, too late to save Italy, the German gaoler steps in to enslave her.

Economically, Italy made herself dependent on Germany by inviting the British blockade with a declaration of war. Germany supplies (and can withhold) the extra million tons of coal a month which Italy must import.

For oil, since her supply of crude oil in Albania has been largely nullified as a result of her ill-judged aggression, Italy depended on foreign supplies. It was Germany who seized control of the Rumanian wells.

In food, Italians have had to endure a lower standard and more ruthless restrictions than Germans. The recent agricultural agreement between Germany and Italy ominously reproduces, almost word for word, the arrangements dictated to Rumania from Berlin.

Politically, Italy has gained nothing from her partnership with the German Fuehrer. The cries of "Corsica, Tunis, Savoy!" with which the Fascists plunged into the war have died down. Spies and Gestapo agents spread through Italy as they have spread through France.

Military assistance has begun with the German occupation of air bases in Italy and Sicily. Its purpose is to break the British control of the Mediterranean rather than to save Mussolini's stricken African legions. Combined with this attempt to strike at Britain over the body of Italy is the manœuvre in France whereby Hitler still endeavours to secure from Vichy the use of the remaining French fleet and Mediterranean bases.

STUKAS OFF SICILY.

The Sicilian Channel is the bottle-neck of the Central Mediterranean. With bases in Sicily and the island of Pantellaria, Italy should have asserted control of these narrow waters if she could assert it anywhere. It is here, at the easiest point for attack, that Nazi air reinforcement has appeared in the attempt to redress the Italian failure.

The surprise attack on a large British convoy on January 10 was carried out chiefly by German Ju 87 Stukas. This machine was successful in the German advance into France, having been designed for co-operation with land forces. In the *Blitz* over Britain it failed, and perhaps can now be spared for use in the Mediterranean without seriously affecting the *Luftwaffe's* strength in its main job.

NOT WHAT THEY HOPED.

Results can hardly have reached German expectations. Fighters had to accompany the bombers, but 12 warplanes were destroyed during the attack, and more than 30 when the R.A.F. raided their base at Catania.

The warships carried out their function and the important convoy for Greece got through safely. The British cruiser *Southampton* became a total loss. The aircraft-carrier *Illustrious* sustained damage from direct hits in a seven-hour battle but survived.

Dr. Goebbels claims the *Illustrious* and an uncertain number of other vessels as destroyed. Nevertheless he has moderated his voice since last August, when of the 7 aircraft-carriers possessed by Britain at the outset of the war he claimed to have sunk 10. He no longer mentions the *Ark Royal*.

THE NAVY'S STRENGTH.

The *Illustrious*, from whose decks British aircraft crippled the Italian fleet at Taranto, is one of the 4 new aircraft-carriers in the Admiralty's 1940 programme. Two more are due for commission in 1942.

The *Southampton* is the fourth British cruiser to be lost. At the beginning of the war Britain had 62 cruisers. The enemy have reported no fewer than 84 as sunk. Actually British cruiser strength is higher now than when war began.

The measure of Axis claims to success off Sicily may be gauged from Mussolini's announcement that between three and four hundred Italian soldiers were missing in the Western desert in December. Bombay has already seen thousands of these missing Italians—a small proportion of the immense haul of prisoners—passing through the streets to their prison-camp.

THE DODECANESE ISLANDS

ONE OF THE POST-WAR PROBLEMS.

The plight of the Italian garrison in the Dodecanese Islands is now desperate. The question of final ownership of these Islands may well become one of the most intricate of post-war problems.

For many centuries part of the Ottoman Empire, these Aegean islands (of which there are 14) were seized by Italy in 1912 during the war with Turkey, and she has held on to them ever since; and while the modern Turkish Republic has wisely refused to consider itself the territorial heir of the Ottomans, it is possible that the proximity of the Dodecanese to Turkey's Asiatic mainland may incline Ankara to press for at least partial control over them.

On the other hand, the native islanders are predominantly Greek in race and sentiment, and it must be remembered that, in 1912, the Italians promised that on the cessation of Turco-Italian hostilities the islands should be handed over to the Greek Government. That promise was never fulfilled, and Italy's possession of the Dodecanese was confirmed in 1915.

In 1919, at the end of the Great War, Italy promised to hand over 12 of the islands to Greece, at the same time promising to another of them, Rhodes, a "wide measure of autonomy" which should eventually lead to independence or to Greek ownership. These promises, too, were later repudiated by the Italians, and the status quo was finally recognized under the Treaty of Sevres.

The Fascist regime ushered in a reign of terror throughout the Dodecanese, which has gone hand in hand with totally unsuccessful attempts to italianize the native population—estimated in 1936 at about 150,000.

With Italian control removed, the problem becomes one of great difficulty, but it is to be hoped that a solution will be worked out, after this war, along the lines of that Turkish-Greek friendship which has been one of the most stabilizing features of Middle East relationships in recent years.

MISLEADING STATEMENTS IN ENEMY BROADCASTS

BROADCASTS IN ENGLISH

Axis Multiplication-Tables

It would have been asking too much of Dr. Goebbels and his Italian imitators to expect them to stick to the facts when " describing " the *Luftwaffe's* attack on a British convoy and its naval escort in the Mediterranean on January 10. Certainly Berlin and Rome were less hysterical than usual, but that was doubtless due to the sobering knowledge that at least 12 Axis warplanes—many of them Junkers dive-bombers—were destroyed during the engagement, and between 30 and 40 during a subsequent R.A.F raid on the enemy's lair at Catania in Sicily.

Needless to say, these losses were not mentioned by the German or Italian wireless, whose reports confined themselves chiefly to accusing the British Government of trying to minimize its own losses.

The plain facts of the attack are that the British cruiser *Southampton* was set on fire and had later to be sunk by other Royal Navy units, while the aircraft-carrier *Illustrious* and the destroyer *Gallant* were damaged but reached port; that the important convoy concerned reached Greece safely; and that not a single British plane was lost.

On January 15, the Berlin radio quoted what it described as " interesting details " from the *Giornale d'Italia* of the attack, in the course of which it was stated that the *Gallant* (by that time safely in harbour) had " obviously been sunk ". Two days later, in the face of the British Admiralty's factual account of the whole affair, Berlin asserted—without even attempting to produce any evidence—that eight " other British warships (besides the *Southampton*) were hit and damaged ". Some seven hours later the Germans, possibly feeling they had been too modest in their claims, announced that " 14 British vessels have certainly been hit and a few of them have been sunk ".

Changed Tactics

The following day (January 18), Berlin attempted a little eye-witness description of its own. " The German planes," it said " had come down to such a low altitude that their objectives had been clearly visible."

Doubtless this temerity on the part of the Nazi airmen was so unusual that Berlin felt justified in mentioning it.

As every civilian in Britain knows, the *Luftwaffe* are generally content to drop their bombs through the clouds and from a height of anything up to 30,000 feet, and then race back to tell Dr. Goebbels what " military objectives " they have hit and destroyed. Meanwhile, the world awaits (but without much confidence) a precise statement from Berlin on German air losses to date in the Mediterranean.

Pirates !

A few days ago the British armed merchant ship *Asturias* was reported to be shadowing the Europe-bound food ship *Mendoza* in South Atlantic waters. " The British pirates ", said Berlin (January 17), " trained their guns on the *Mendoza*, whose only crime was to transport a few foodstuffs for France—the country which has lost all in the defence of Britain ".

A would-be cunning piece of propaganda this, combining two themes :—

(i) British blockade is starving the innocent non-combatants of Europe, and

(ii) A re-hash of the old accusation, " Britain will fight to the last Frenchman ".

Goebbels omitted one important word from his report—" Occupied ". The *Mendoza* was bound for a port in Occupied France—the country which has lost all in the support of the German Army of Occupation.

Four hundred million francs a day is the price France pays for German " protection ".

The *Mendoza's* cargo would have fed German troops, not French civilians.

Crowded Out

" While Great Britain is clamouring for assistance from the United States ", says Berlin on January 17, " an economic delegation under Lord Willingdon is making every possible effort to crowd the United States out of South American markets." Only a few weeks ago the Nazi radio was drawing attention to the disastrous condition of trade in South America, and blamed the British blockade of Germany.

Before the war Germany bought £17,000,000 worth of exports a year from the Argentine and Brazil—to mention only two of the South American markets from which she is now excluded. Lord Willingdon hopes to arrange with the South American countries to buy these goods which would in normal times go to Germany.

It is the Nazis, not the United States, who are being crowded out of South America.

Nazi Solicitude

The Berlin radio denies (January 15) that Polish enterprises have been transferred to Germans, but revealingly adds in the next sentence, " No transfer was ever considered if the owners of these factories were of German origin."

The Nazis have two aims in Poland. One is the extermination of the Polish nation; the other is the maximum exploitation of Polish industry.

Herr Frank, the German Governor of Poland, is carrying out a four-year exploitation plan, based on discrimination between industrial plant which can be used for German war

material production and those which serve only the requirements of the Polish civilian population. The latter industries are being systematically destroyed. At the same time the occupation authorities aim at securing at least a million Polish workers for Germany, three quarters of them to be employed on farms in the Reich.

These are the steps which, according to Berlin, have been taken " to ensure that the economic life and production will return to normal as soon as possible in order that the Polish population might have an opportunity of earning a living."

BROADCASTS IN ASIATIC LANGUAGES

Under German Domination

On January 13, the Nazi radio quoted the political correspondent of the *Berliner Boersen Zeitung* as saying that England and America's " New Order " meant those countries' determination to rule the world. Whatever the Anglo-American " New Order " might mean, this is what Germany's " New Order " is costing such countries as are to-day enjoying its dubious blessings :—

France : 400 million francs per day.
Denmark : $1\frac{1}{2}$ million crowns per day.
Norway : 3-4 million crowns per day.
Belgium : 2,400,000 Reich marks per day.
Holland : 1,200,000 Reich marks per day.
Rumania : 1,750,000 Reich marks per day.

In other words, total exploitation up to November 30, 1940 (reckoning 1 Reich mark = - /12/-) for various occupied countries was :—

Norway : Rs. 147/12/- per head of the population.
Denmark : Rs. 78–12–0 per head of the population.
Holland : Rs. 40–8–0 per head of the population.
Belgium : Rs. 35–4–0 per head of the population.
France : Rs. 63–12–0 per head of the population.

In Poland

The Berlin radio announced on January 14 that everything possible was being done to improve the lot of the Poles. Hitler, however, told the Reichstag on May 17, 1933, that " the mentality of the last century, which thought it possible to turn Poles and Frenchmen into Germans, is foreign to us," and his policy throughout has been that of driving the rightful inhabitants from occupied Poland. By March 1940, about 700,000 Poles and Jews had been expelled, and this number now exceeds one million. The cultural, social and religious life of the Poles has been, practically stamped out. Since the outbreak of war, Polish children in Posen have had only three weeks' schooling, all schools being reserved for Germans.

Food condition appears to be worse than in the case of the other occupied countries. In general, the Poles are allowed two-thirds of the rations allotted to the Germans. The German shops are supplied with the food they need and so as a rule are those for the Ukranians, but the shops for Poles and Jews are for weeks on end without either fat, meat, eggs or sugar. Persons of " German race " are issued with a clothing card, which in theory allows an equal amount of clothing to each member of the community. The Polish local authorities are only allowed a small number of such cards.

Warsaw, for example, with a population of 1,000,000 has only 10,000 cards!

In France

Meanwhile, on January 15, Dr. Goebbels' radio proudly proclaimed that 450,000 tons of potatoes and 100,000 tons of sugar were being sent to occupied and unoccupied France. When we recall that the Belgian farmers were ordered to send all their potato crops, except a small allowance for themselves, livestock and replanting, to the German authorities, that Gauleiter Greiser declared Poland was now the " granary of the whole Empire," and that in Holland, during the first week of the invasion, over $17\frac{1}{2}$ million pounds of butter (about 90 per cent of the total reserves), was removed, the motive for Germany's self-styled generosity becomes manifest.

The Nazis are trying to propitiate France because they still have an eye on her fleet.

More Crime Fiction

Not content with inventing " British Secret Service plots " to assassinate King Ibn Saud, the Amir Abdulla, two of Egypt's Ministers and even the late Lord Lothian, the Italian radio on January 14 comes out with the news of a plot against the King and the Queen of Egypt and King Farouk's mother!

Perhaps Rome is not aware that relations between Egypt and England have never been more cordial. On receipt of the news of the British victory at Bardia, King Farouk immediately ordered that his congratulations be conveyed to General Wavell. Furthermore, the Egyptian press has been as jubilant as the British and Empire newspapers over the victory.

ITALY AND GERMANY

(*Continued from Page* 8)

even struck a medal to commemorate the success he expected, a now forgotten British victory caused great rejoicings in London. This was the battle of Maida, fought on the Italian mainland near the toe of the peninsula.

Sir John Stuart commanded a British force in Sicily which had not been conquered by Napoleon. His expeditionary force was conveyed from Messina by naval ships, landed in the bay of Santa Eufernia and defeated a French division at Maida with the help of some Neapolitans. Maida Hill and Maida Vale in London are named after this exploit.

N.B.—Please file the Madras War Review regularly for future reference.

[With the compliments of the Director of Information, Madras.]

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